

DOCKET NO.: MBI-1064

LITIGATED REISSUE

B/

As may best be seen in FIGS. 1 and 4, each axle 22, 24, 28, 30 includes at least one locating structure 26, the purpose of which is to lock the respective axle in a rotational position that corresponds to the second operative position shown in FIG. 1. In the illustrated embodiment, first and second axles 22, 24 include two such locating structures 26, while the third and fourth axles 28, 30 which support the shorter [nipple] ring support members 32, are equipped with but one locating structure 26. The construction of the locating structures 26, however, is uniform throughout the four axles 22, 24, 28, 30. As may be seen in FIG. 4, locating structure 26 includes a cam member 43 having a lower surface 44 that is constructed and arranged to bear against the upper face 16 of tray 12, and a forward surface 46 that is constructed and arranged to come into contact with a rear surface 44 of a cam stop 42 that projects upwardly and is unitary with the upper face 16 of tray 12. FIG. 1 and FIG. 4 both depict the locking structure 26 in the second, operative position. The path between the first and second positions is indicated in FIG. 4 by arrow [46] 47. The [nipple] ring support member 32 is prevented from bending backwardly in the direction away from the first storage position by contact of the forward surface 46 of cam member 43 with the rear surface [44] 51 of cam stop 42.

✓

If it is desired to move the [nipple] ring support member 32 from the second, operative position shown in FIG. 1 to the first storage position shown in FIG. 2, a user will push the [nipple] ring support member 32 in the desired direction. Initially, this movement will be deterred by the frictional contact of the lower surface 44 and the leading edge 45 of the lower surface with the upper face 16 of tray 12. Once the leading edge 45 has cleared the upper face, however, the [nipple] ring support member 32 will easily fold down into the position that is shown in FIG. 2.

According to another important aspect of the invention, apparatus 10 further includes a disk holding system 50 for holding baby bottle disks in a location that is isolated from areas of the tray 12 in which liquid may collect. This allows baby bottle [disk] disks to be dried and stored in a safe manner at a location that is convenient to a location at which baby bottles are being dried. In the preferred embodiment, [disc] disk holding system 50 includes an upstanding boss member 52 that projects upwardly from the upper face 16 of tray 12 and has a plurality of [disc] disk receiving slots 54 defined

DOCKET NO.: MBI-1064

LITIGATED REISSUE

31 therein. Boss member 52 and slots 54 are raised with respect to an underlying reservoir 56 that is located in the forward portion of tray 12. As an added benefit, the reservoir space also acts as a finger space area for a user to get his/her fingers beneath the [disc] disk members for lifting them out after drying.

It is to be understood, however, that even though numerous characteristics and advantages of the present invention have been set forth in the foregoing description, together with details of the structure and function of the invention, the disclosure is illustrative only, and changes may be made in detail, especially in matters of shape, size and arrangement of parts within the principles of the invention to the full extent indicated by the broad general meaning of the terms in which the appended claims are expressed.

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated January 13, 2003. After entry of this amendment, claims 2, 4-7 and 9-49 will continue to pend. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested in view of the remarks made below.

1. The Objection to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to under Rule 84(p)(4) because, as it was correctly noted, reference numeral 44 had been used to designate two separate features. In response to the objection, Applicant has amended the specification and has submitted the attached proposed amendment to the drawings in which one of the reference numerals has been changed to 51. Approval of the amendments and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.